

visit sites of new nursing practice models; initiatives in nursing management and leadership and certification review courses; developing summer internships for senior nursing students to reduce "reality shock" and to increase mastery of clinical skills; and continued research on the retention of nurses.

(c) The State of North Carolina shall strive to be a model employer with respect to State nursing positions. State institutions which employ nurses may participate in the efforts of Area Health Education Centers, and may make experimental efforts aimed at increasing the retention of nurses in the nursing profession. The Department of Human Resources, the Department of Correction, and the North Carolina Memorial Hospital shall each report to the General Assembly and to the Legislative Commission on Nursing on their efforts, and shall indicate any additional authority needed to carry out retention efforts. Each Department shall submit its report by November 1, 1989.

**Sec. 7.** Retention incentives and nursing focus. (a) The Legislative Commission on Nursing shall plan for the establishment of a Center for Excellence in Nursing. The Commission may appoint a separate group to plan for this Center.

(b) The planning group for the Center for Excellence in Nursing shall consider the need for a focal point for the State's efforts to improve the nursing profession and shall make recommendations to the Commission on the organization, structure, duties, and costs involved in establishing and maintaining the Center.

(c) The Area Health Education Centers of The University of North Carolina shall conduct two pilot institute programs in 1989-90 for nurses involved in direct patient care.

**Sec. 8.** Educational mobility for nurses. (a) The Department of Community Colleges and the baccalaureate schools of nursing shall expand their efforts to improve the transferability of course credits for the associate's degree in nursing to baccalaureate nursing programs, where feasible. The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, and the Department of Community Colleges shall develop and report on a plan based on the results of these efforts to the Legislative Commission on Nursing by November 1, 1989.

(b) Hospital-based diploma schools of nursing are encouraged to work with the schools offering associate and baccalaureate degrees in nursing in their service areas in order to structure diploma-school course offerings so that more of these courses meet the criteria for academic credit at the associate and baccalaureate degree levels. The schools are requested to report the results of these efforts to the General Assembly and the Legislative Commission on Nursing by November 1, 1989.